

**BCMC Newsletter**  
**Volume 99, Issue 1**



For over 100 years we've been fueled by volunteers

*Wedgemount Cabin proudly built by BCMC, Photo by [Alys Williams](#)*

British Columbia Mountaineering Club  
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# CONTENT



From the steep old clearcut  
of blueberries and jumbled logs  
dusty and dry  
I broke out  
rounded up and over  
into that thin crown  
the last of the old growth  
where the spring snow appeared  
out of nowhere  
heat to cold  
rustling to silence  
in so few steps

I threaded through  
a few old cedars  
and popped out  
onto that small  
obscure little frozen tear-  
drop  
like a secret  
leftover birthday cake  
covered in stale spring  
icing

A weary snow  
heavy,  
under the stress of endless  
passing of clouds

and rain squalls  
The creek started here  
I had crossed it many times  
yet this was the first time  
I had reached the heart of the matter

For today  
the curved forested ridge  
and the peaks above  
were humbled  
by stump  
lake  
and the resting  
lonesome adventurer.



Like the Ghost Busters,  
Need help? Call Anders!  
by [David Scanlon](#)

Professionally, Anders Ourom is a lawyer providing services for societies, charities and not for profit organizations. What he does for fun is a lengthy list and listed here are what I could find...



He is a British Columbia Club Mountaineering Member, joining in 1971. He was club climbing chair from 1984 to 1986. Club president from 1994 to 1998 and was made an honorary member in 1989.

Anders to this day aids the club in many matters.

“IF ANY OF US EVER NEEDS ANDERS’ SAGE ADVICE - ANDERS IS ALWAYS THERE.”



Photo : Anders

Here is a short / long list of what Anders does to keep busy and what he does for the community at large ;

- Helped with the British Columbia Mountaineering Foundation
- Past director of the Vancouver Chamber Choir
- Past director of the FMCBC.
- Past director of the Scandinavian Norwegian Society.
- Past president of the Hostelling International of BC.
- Mountain Equipment Co-op director twice; 1981 -1986; 1988 -1992 (president from 1989 to 1991)

### **And in the climbing community ;**

Anders was an inventor of a graffiti removal process without the use of water or power so as to not damage the environment. The process is used at Yosemite and as far away as Nova Scotia.

Anders helps with the removal of graffiti at Yosemite since the last 15 years.



Photo : Yosemite National Park

Anders was a founding director Climbers Access society of BC from 1995 to 2007. The CASBC organization worked to protect public interest in and access to BC's cliffs and mountains for everyone.

It was very effective and there are now 20 other same organizations all based on the original.

**His generosity for the mountains doesn't stop there ;**

- Author of [A Climber's Guide to the Squamish Chief in 1982](#), BCMC newsletters, Alpinist and the Canadian Alpine journal
- Wrote chapters in the Climbers Access guide to the Squamish Chief in 1980;
- Co-dited the Guide to Hiking and Climbing in Southwest BC.

**It runs in the Ourom DNA !**

Both of Anders' parents, Don, Rita, were BCMC members.

Don was a founding member of the MRG in BC ([The Mountain Rescue Group](#)).

The MRG was the precursor of today's SAR.



Photo : MRG

Coquihalla No. 49,  
An Alpine Celebration : Life for Marilyn Cram  
by [Karl Ricker](#)

It was the usual weekend for a BCMC trip to “the Coke” which saw us up at Mt. Cheam instead.



The reason for the change of venue was obvious. Marilyn Cram’s home in the community of Greendale, seven kilometres west of Sardis (South Chilwack), has front room window views of Mt. Cheam. How many times she ascended the mountain we do not know, but her last hike to the top was on a sunny day with us in 2014.

On the trail she met many of her local friends, cheerfully as always, but many did not know that Marilyn was in early stages of Alzheimer’s.

*Season Highlights (Continued)*

This insidious disease moved quickly through her system, and March 6, 2021, was the end of her life. On October 3rd on Mt. Cheam we had an Alpine Celebration of her spirit and impressive life. We are sure that she approved of the venue and frankly she was there. This was the first celebration of her life, one or two more are in the offing, and for her outdoor friends we regard this one as the most significant as it was in her favoured habitat.

However, the indifferent weather during the week, including sporadic  
“ABOUT 17 MEMBERS OF THE BCMC SIGNED UP FOR THE EVENT AND HER CLUB, CHILLIWACK OUTDOORS (COC), WERE ALSO NOTIFIED.”

short-lived alpine snow-fall, brought on a rash of cancellations leaving us with six members of the BCMC and her nephew Max—but nary a COCer!

Marilyn understood the reason for this poor turnout, but if she was there in



“DUBIOUS WEATHER WAS HARDLY AN OBSTACLE TO HER IMPRESSIVE CHAIN OF PURSUITS!”

-Karl Ricker

body she would be forging ahead on the trail.

The access to Cheam, 15 kilometres off the pavement on an initial 8 km of good gravel followed by 7km of the worst “tank traps”, convinced us to leave the cars near the highway and load up in the two 4WD vehicles for the tortuous ascent.



An unruly drainage ditch was an imposing obstacle and so we parked and hiked the last 1.5 km to the parking lot where, gulp, five vehicles were already there. We were too timid!

On the alpine trail we were in a blanketing cloud but only encountered one residual snow patch near the summit. Marilyn’s home was unfortunately not visible due to the cloud. From a 9:00 am start the younger members were on the summit at 11:00 am while I slowly dragged in at noon on wobbly knees.

Ed, Larissa and Max went to work to install a special engraved rock prepared by Marilyn's sister, Marcia Wright. Once fully cemented into place, 10 metres NE of the summit, we had a brief discussion on Marilyn's outstanding achievements and pursuits in her life: Volunteerism to the fullest with dedication to assist the disabled, her church (Carman United in Sardis), the Stó:lō First Nation, and various charities in the Chilliwack community; a very active member of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club, the BCMC, the Chilliwack Naturalists and sporadically the Alpine Club of Canada; outstanding kayaking on the BC Coast and canoe voyages on several rivers in Canada's North; and her skiing par excellence in the alpine of western Canada.

She was also the caretaker of the family chalet at Mt. Baker, "owning" every ski run on and off-piste on the mountain. Sadly, with Marilyn's final life in a care home the family had to sell the magnificent property.

At the conclusion of the breezy conversation the party regrouped at the stone shelter on the west ridge of the summit where we had a small glass of wine and a few squares of chocolate—her favourite treats. We acknowledged she was here in spirit and that she recognized all who gathered there and elsewhere. It was a celebration she would have wanted. Marilyn, we did our best, you were everyone's alpine mentor.

The descent began at 2:00 pm in swirling clouds while 40-50 others were on their way up the mountain. Again, the younger members were down quickly with Max going to his vehicle to drive to the parking lot to pick up we laggards.

*Season Highlights (Continued)*

BY 4:00 PM WE REGROUPED ONCE MORE WHERE THE OTHER CARS WERE PARKED  
NEAR THE ASPHALT TO END A DAY OF RESPECT FOR OUR  
“QUEEN OF THE MOUNTAINS.”

ADIEU MARILYN, YOUR INSPIRATIONAL SMILING SPIRIT WILL ALWAYS



Participants : Denis Vacha, Max Leyen, Larisa Baesu, Aeshin Ardalan,  
Lisa Wang, Ed Zenger and Karl Ricker (co-leaders).

Postscript : Coquihalla No. 50 (and the last), next year I hope on Mt.  
Thynne. Jack Bryceland says it will attract your grandmothers!

## Back to the Wedgemount Glacier

by [Alys Williams](#)

The year I was born, MEC was formed, the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve established, and the BCMC hut at Wedgemount Lake completed and opened to hikers.

Nineteen seventy-one was a big year for the future of outdoor recreation in Southwestern BC.

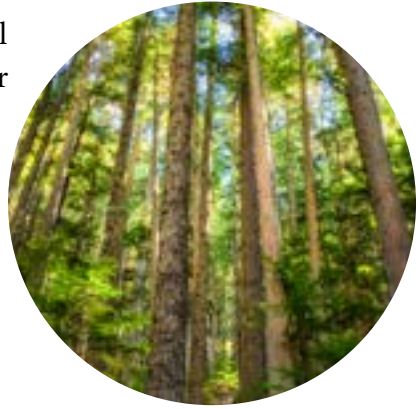


Back then, the Wedgemount Glacier still touched the lake and not a soul posted the picturesque scene to Instagram.

At 2,895 m, Wedge Mountain is the highest peak in Garibaldi Provincial Park and the hiking trail to the lake at its base is arguably one of the toughest, steepest, and most beautiful around.

The stunning Wedgemount Lake Trail with its elevation gain of 1,362 m over 12.6 km offers cooling cover of fir, cedar, hemlock, and pine rising out of beds of moss and fern.

With scenic Wedgemount Falls and western views over Rainbow Mountain, the trail itself is an alpine gem.



Once you scramble up the massive granite boulder field and gratefully cross over the rise, you're rewarded with picture-perfect turquoise Wedgemount Lake, a field of August wildflowers, and in the far distance below Wedge Mountain, the magnificent Wedgemount Glacier.

Today, the glacier no longer touches the lake. According to research by BCMC member Karl Ricker and 3 generations of the Tupper and Lyon families, in a matter of 4 decades, she has receded over 560 metres at a rapidly increasing rate.



Over the past 2 decades, she has left the lake and crept back steadily, uncovering a series of riegelds, and degrading into ice caves and bergs in a new pool at her current terminus.

As a professional landscape photographer, I haul a lot of extra gear up mountains. A camera body, 4 lenses, filters, batteries, cards, and a tripod at minimum. Making this normally arduous hike with full backpacking gear a positive slog. But also incredibly worthwhile and memorable. Five years ago, I climbed my way beneath the ancient ice of the Wedgemount Glacier to photograph sunlight through her undulating curves. I listened to her groan and I basked in her beauty. I returned three years later, as the world awakened from its COVID lockdown, to find my cave gone. Vanished. Replaced by silent grey moraine. The glaciers are groaning.

**“ARE WE LISTENING?”**

- Alys Williams



Photos by [Alys Williams](#)

Alys Williams is a professional landscape photographer and BCMC member. Her luxury fine art photography installations

transport her collectors to the remote and wild parts of our world so they can feel the awe and wonder of these natural spaces for a meaningful escape.

## Anders Ourom Receives the BC Achievement Community Award by [Glenn Woodsworth](#)

Congratulations to our Past President and Honourary Member [Anders Ourom](#), who on May 10th was one of 20 British Columbians who received the BC Achievement Community Award. This award recognizes excellence and inspiring achievement in community service and leadership, and Anders has certainly provided service and leadership in many ways to many organizations.

### The citation reads:

*Anders Ourom began serving BC's climbing and mountaineering community while a student at the University of British Columbia and remains actively engaged to this day.*

*As a young volunteer, he led training trips and aught rock climbing at Squamish and elsewhere. He has continued this with the BC Mountaineering Club, which he has been active in for over 50 years. Anders' efforts introduced many people to rock climbing and mountaineering, and he has been a mentor to many climbers. An expert rock climber, his 1980 guidebook to rock climbing at Squamish systematized and collected all the information available to that point.*



*Photo Lieutenant governor Janet Austin presenting the Community Award to Anders Ourom.  
Photo courtesy of Julie Ourom.*

*A founder and long-time president of the Climbers' Access Society of BC, Anders was one of those instrumental in persuading the provincial government to create Stawamus Chief Provincial Park in 1995 and Skaha Bluffs Provincial Park in 2010. A founding member of the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival in 1997, Anders has been involved as a volunteer, director, and strategic adviser. Anders was an early member of Mountain Equipment Co-operative. He started as a volunteer at its tiny first store, then served nine years as a director, including three Years as chair.*

Here at home, he has organized many garbage cleanup and graffiti removal days in Stawamus Chief Provincial Park and Smoke Bluffs Park in Squamish, both through Squamish Access Society and on his own.

Anders is the fourth BCMC member to have received this award. Our Honourary Presidents Martin and Esther Kafer received it in 2007, and Honourary Member Michael Feller was honoured in 2014. Conglatulations to all four of you.

## Piloting BCMC Mentorship Program

by [Shashi Shanbhag](#)

“BY THE END OF JANUARY 2022, WE HAD RECEIVED 95 MENTEE APPLICATIONS AND 13 MENTOR APPLICATIONS.

THE RESPONSE WAS OVERWHELMING.”

-Shashi, BCMC Director of the Mentorship Program



Photo by [BCMC](#)

Since I moved to Vancouver in 2016, I have benefited from climbing with experienced BCMC members. Still, I felt a formal program might help a broader audience. So in April 2019, I contacted BCMC and asked if the club offered a mentorship program.

BCMC back then didn't have a program in place. So [Chris](#) gave me a call, and he supported the idea of doing a pilot program. Over the next few days, I read more about mentorship programs across North America and put together a document summarizing different programs.

The [Alpine Mentors program developed by Steve House](#) was an inspiration. However, it was a two-year program for advanced climbers. My goal was to create a scaled-down version of this program for BCMC members.

Later in the year, Oudi and Murray volunteered to support this program. We got together a couple of times to discuss different aspects of mentorship and what would work for BCMC.



Photo by [raberphoto](#)

By the end of 2019, we had developed a framework for a pilot program. But due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other reasons, we couldn't get the program off the ground in 2020. So, in October 2021, I joined the BCMC Board of Directors as a Director of the Mentorship Program. Now, I was better positioned to make this program a reality.



Photo by [BCMC](#)

Mountain Mentors is an excellent mentorship program launched in 2015, and I first came across it in 2019. I read more about the program and reached out to JoJo Das, Program Director at Mountain Mentors, for some guidance. JoJo helped me understand their approach, challenges and the time commitment to run a program.

Using the framework we had developed in 2019, I put together a proposal for the BCMC Board of Directors. By the first week of January 2022, I had the approval to launch the BCMC Mentorship Pilot Program for the Winter 2021-22 season. We were late in the season, but the goal was to learn from the pilot program experience and see if we could make it work. mentors.

BCMC members could sign up to be a Mentee or Mentor in Backcountry Skiing, Downhill Skiing, Ice Climbing or Snowshoeing. Our initial goal was to have a 1:1 mentorship and pair at least five mentees with five mentors.

Over two weeks, [Oudi](#), Murray, [Wayne](#), [Marie](#), and I reviewed mentee/mentor applications and finalized the mentee-mentor pairs. Finally, we had 26 mentees paired with 10 mentors. Much different from the 1:1 mentoring we had planned, but we had to make some changes given the number of applicants.

We started with a Mentorship Kick-Off Zoom call to go over the program and had mentee(s) connect with their mentor in virtual breakout rooms. Then, we wrapped up the call with a Q&A session, and from here on, mentors and mentees were free to connect and plan their trips.

Despite the late start, we had about 19 trips organized as part of the mentorship program. Based on the feedback we collected in early April, most of the mentees had a positive experience.

**“BUT WE HAD SOME CHALLENGES IN THE PROGRAM AS WELL.”**

SHASHI SHANBHAG

For example, few mentees dropped off during the program, and two mentors failed to organize a single trip. The biggest challenge for mentors with multiple mentees was finding a time that worked for everyone. Even though we tried to group mentees with similar skill levels, the fitness level of mentees varied quite a bit.

Despite the challenges, I believe the pilot program was successful as we could launch the program, help a majority of mentees progress in their mountain sport and learn from the experience. Based on the feedback from the pilot program participants, we have now made some changes to the Summer 22 Mentorship Program. I am sure the program will get better with each iteration.

Throughout the program, we received some great feedback, and I will leave you with one such feedback-



Photo by [BCMC](#)

**“The mentorship scheme worked brilliantly. I went from zero ice climbing experience to some confidence on steeper routes which is exactly what I wanted. Couldn’t have got a better instructor from a paid course either! I was very lucky to be part of the program.”**

[Ewan Wright, Ice Climbing Mentee](#)



# 2022

## May

May

- 16 ● [Hive Heights 4:00pm](#), *Climbing Session*, [Raj Rai](#)
- 17 ● [BCMC Mentorship:Sully's Climb after work](#),  
*Rock Climbing*, [Anthony Yan](#)
- 18 ● [Night @ Hive Heights](#), *Climbing Session*, [Shannon Healy](#)
- 18 ● [Norvan Falls Hiking](#), *Hiking*, [Simon Als](#)
- 19 ● [Broken Group Islands](#),*Kayaking*, [Christopher Barton](#)
- 19 ● [Mentorship Trip : Hiking Black Mountain](#),  
*Hiking* , [Susan Park](#)
- 21 ● [Summer Crevasse Rescue & Glacier Travel](#),  
*Guided Instruction*, [Mountain Skills AcademyAdventures](#)
- 22 ● [Intro to Trad Climbing](#),  
*Guided Instruction*, [Mountain Skills AcademyAdventures](#)
- 27 ● [Mentorship Trip: Smoke Bluffs](#), *Rock Climbing*, [Chris Slade](#)
- 27- ● [Crest Creek](#),*Rock Climbing*, [Alexey Badalov](#)
- 29
- 28 ● [Gott-Cha Deep in the Duffey](#),  
*Backcountry Skiing*, [Marie Amante](#)



# 2022

## June - July

Jun

- 6-13 [West Coast Trail, Backpacking Trip](#), Backpacking Trip, [Alan Novotny](#)
- 10-12 [North Creek Work Party](#), Trail Clearing, [Brian Sheffield](#)
- 11-12 [Intro to Basic Mountaineering](#), Guided Instruction, [MountainSkills AcademyAdventures](#)
- 16-19 [Lizzie trail work hike](#), Trail Clearing, [Brian Sheffield](#)

Jul

- 1-8 [Hut to Hut summer camp](#) Backpacking Trip, [Brian Sheffield](#)
- 28-1 [Mt. Vayu \(Pemberton\)](#) Backpacking Trip, [Wes Lake](#)

# Your Story Matters

The BC Mountaineering Club Newsletter is an official publication of the B.C. Mountaineering Club and is published four times per year.

## **SUBMISSIONS**

We want you to write for us! Any submitted news, events, trip reports, letters relevant to the BCMC will be published unless the club executive decides otherwise.

For photos, high resolution is much appreciated. Submitted material may be edited for clarity or brevity, or for consistency with club policies. Opinions and comments expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the BCMC.

## **SUBMIT YOUR CONTENT**

editor@bcmc.ca

British Columbia Mountaineering Cl



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2022

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